

# **Safety and Security in Off-Base Housing**

Here are a few things to consider while looking for an off-base house/apartment that will increase your safety and security:

1. Does a fence that limits access surround the apartment complex? For houses, is the back yard fenced?
2. Is there parking provided that is off the street?
3. Are outdoor entrances/hallways and parking lots well illuminated?
4. Are the doors sturdy and well built? Do they have the capability to permit the occupant to identify visitors without opening the door?
5. Do the entrances have deadbolt locks?
6. Do all of the windows have locking mechanisms?
7. Does the area have a high crime rate? Check the Internet or ask the local police department. ([www.news9.com](http://www.news9.com)) Go to the Crime Tracker button at the center bottom of page. [www.vpike.com](http://www.vpike.com) to view the actual house and neighborhood.
8. Are there adequate fire alarms and do they work properly?
9. Drive past at different times to day. See who your neighbors are, is it an elderly community, are there lots of children, young adults or teenagers hanging out at the corner? What time of day do you work and sleep – could children riding bikes and playing interrupt your sleeping?